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REMARKS

Claims 1 - 15 remain in this application. Claims 1 - 5 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 6 - 10 and 13 - 15 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments noted is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention. "Port arrangement" has been amended to read --non-circular narrow opening arrangement--. Further, "at least one port" has been amended to read --at least one elongated narrow opening which is high vertically and narrow horizontally--. Claims 7 - 10 and 13 - 14 have likewise been amended such that "port" now reads --narrow opening--. Applicant submits that these structural features are not taught or suggested by the cited references. The claims were also amended to correct typographical/grammatical errors.

The specification and abstract have likewise been amended such that "port arrangement" now reads --narrow opening arrangement-- and "port" reads --narrow opening--. Also, a few typographical errors were corrected in the specification and abstract.

With respect to the changing of the word "port" to --narrow opening--, applicant has found that the original Finnish wording of the parent PCT application is much more restrictive than the filed English translation. Specifically, the Finnish word "rako/raon (genitive)" was originally translated as "port" in English. Actually, however, the Finnish word "rako" means "a narrow opening," i.e., an opening having one dimension much larger than its transversal dimension. Therefore, the English term --narrow opening-- is a much more correct translation of the Finnish word "rako" than the English word "port." The narrow opening is essential to the working of a pillar loudspeaker according to the present invention. As argued below, the cited references fail to teach or suggest such a narrow opening that is non-circular, high vertically, and narrow horizontally.

Claims 6 - 8, 9 - 11, and 13 - 14 were rejected under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Marquiss (U.S. Patent No. 4,385,210). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Marquiss fails to disclose a non-circular narrow opening arrangement

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comprising at least one elongated narrow opening which is high vertically and narrow horizontally. The relief ports 64 in Marquiss are round holes and therefore structurally different than the present invention. The elongated, vertically extending narrow opening is essential to the working of the present invention and is a novel and non-obvious feature.

For this reason, claim 6 of the present application is patentable over Marquiss. Claims 7 - 8, 9 - 11, and 13 - 14, depending directly or indirectly from claim 6, are therefore also allowable. Hence, applicant submits that claims 6 - 8, 9 - 11, and 13 - 14 are patentable over Marquiss and respectfully requests that the Section 102(b) rejection of these claims over Marquiss be withdrawn.

Claim 9 was rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marquiss. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. To begin, applicant incorporates by reference the arguments made with respect to Marquiss above. Based upon those arguments, claim 6 is allowable over Marquiss. Claim 9, depending directly from claim 6, is therefore also allowable. Hence, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 9 over Marquiss be withdrawn.

Claim 12 was rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marquiss in view of Zelinka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,830, hereinafter "Zelinka"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. To begin, applicant incorporates by reference the arguments made with respect to Marquiss above. Based upon those arguments, claim 6 is allowable over Marquiss. Claim 12, depending directly from claim 6, is therefore also allowable. No combination of Marquiss and Zelinka results in the present invention. Hence, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 12 over Marquiss in view of Zelinka be withdrawn.

Claim 15 was rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marquiss in view of Mori (JP 59-086997). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. To begin, applicant incorporates by reference the arguments made with respect to Marquiss above. Based upon those arguments, claim 6 is allowable over Marquiss. Claim 15, depending indirectly from claim 6, is therefore also allowable. No combination of Marquiss and Mori

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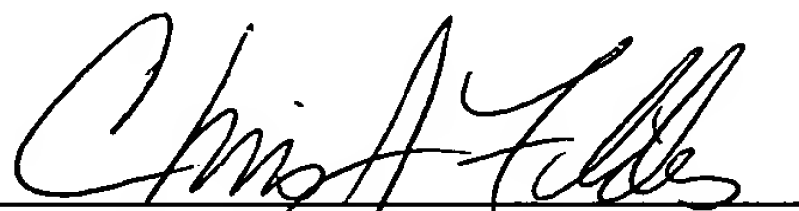
results in the present invention. Hence, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 15 over Marquiss in view of Mori be withdrawn.

This amendment and request for reconsideration is felt to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to present the claims in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Seppo Noponen et al.

Fildes & Outland, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris J. Fildes", written over a horizontal line.

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